

PRESS RELEASE

October 19, 2006

RE: UNITED STATES v. RICHARD TAKACS

United States Attorney Terrance P. Flynn announced today the sentencing of Richard Takacs, age 50, of North Tonawanda, New York. Takacs, who pled guilty on July 18, 2006, to Falsification of Union Records, in violation of Title 29, United States Code, Section 439, was sentenced on October 17, 2006, to a fine of \$1,000 by United States Magistrate Judge Leslie G. Foschio.

Assistant U.S. Attorney John E. Rogowski, who handled the case, stated that the defendant, who was the Financial Secretary of the Plasterers and Cement Masons Local Union Number 9, controlled the union checking account. In pleading guilty, the defendant admitted that beginning in 2002, he wrote union checks to himself on a number of occasions without union authorization, advancing himself salary payments several months early. When the canceled checks were returned by the bank to him on behalf of the union, the defendant altered the dates on the check to conceal the fact that he had advanced himself the salary payments. As a result of this conviction, the defendant, who had been the union's financial secretary since 2000, is prohibited from holding any office with the union for a period of 13 years.

The conviction was the culmination of an investigation on the part of the U.S. Department of Labor, Office of Labor-Management Standards, under the direction of Joseph Wasik, District Director.